



Chris Butler MIFA Archaeological Services



**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at
3 East End Lane,
Ditchling,
East Sussex**

TQ 32621 15328

**by
Chris Butler**

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 3 East End Lane, Ditchling, during building work associated with the construction of a new porch and driveway.

The watching brief resulted in the discovery of a shallow pit which produced pottery and other artefacts dating to the early to mid 16th century, together with an assemblage of bone and other environmental material. Prehistoric flintwork and Medieval Pottery was also recovered, together with 15th to 16th century pottery, and a piece of decorated glazed floor tile of late 15th to 16th century date.

Of particular note is the assemblage of 15th to mid 16th century pottery as this is the first of this period from the village. The assemblage demonstrates the range of local fabrics in use as well as indicating the range of market contacts available to a presumably wealthy household in Ditchling.

Chris Butler MIFA Archaeological Services Prehistoric Flintwork Specialist

Rosedale
Berwick
Polegate
East Sussex
BN26 6TB

Tel & fax: 01323 871021

e mail: chris@reltub.fsbusiness.co.uk

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1 Introduction

- 1.1** Chris Butler Archaeological Services has been commissioned by Mrs H. Barker (The Client) to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the construction of a porch and driveway at 3 East End Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex (TQ 32621 15328).
- 1.2** As a result of the site's location, and the archaeological potential of the area, the local planning authority have put a condition on the planning consent for the development (LW/08/1292), requiring an appropriate programme of archaeological work to be undertaken.
- 1.3** The site lies within the historic core of the Medieval and Post-Medieval village of Ditchling and is also known as an area of Prehistoric activity. The site is within a designated Archaeological Sensitive Area, and is also located within a Conservation Area (Fig. 1). No. 3 East End Lane is a bungalow of brick construction with a ceramic tiled roof, and was built in the 1970's.
- 1.4** The geology, according to the British Geological Survey sheet 318/333 is Folkstone Beds with the Lower Greensand immediately to its north. The Gault Clay lies to the south of the site, and there are outcrops of Head deposit to the east and west.
- 1.5** The watching brief was required to monitor the excavation of the foundation trench for the porch, and the groundworks connected with the construction of the new driveway.
- 1.6** The main part of the watching brief took place on the 1st and 2nd April 2009, with a follow up visit on the 4th May 2009 to monitor the excavation of a trench for the electricity supply. The fieldwork was carried out by the author on the first two days and by Keith Butler on the 4th May,

2 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 2.1 A large number of sites at Ditchling are recorded on the HER (Fig. 2). These comprise find spots of artefacts, earthworks and a large number of Listed Buildings.
- 2.2 The Lower Greensand ridge running east-west through Hassocks and Ditchling has produced a large number of Mesolithic sites, including a large site at Lodge Hill, Ditchling¹, Keymer² and Hassocks³, whilst a watching brief during the laying of a new water pipe-line between Ditchling and Wivelsfield Green located three large concentrations of Mesolithic flintwork (MES 7390-2).
- 2.3 Later prehistoric activity is represented by finds of Later Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork, a Late Bronze Age cauldron (MES1306) and a possible Bronze Age barrow on Lodge Hill (MES1305). Recent assessment excavations at Keymer Burial Ground located a ditch, the fill of which contained flintwork and sherds of prehistoric pottery which range in date from the Late Bronze Age through to the Late Iron Age⁴. Two Iron Age coins have been recovered from fields around Ditchling (MES1313 and Rudling⁵).
- 2.4 The Roman period is represented by finds of Romano-British pottery, coins and Roman tile (MES1311) in fields to the north-east of the site, and a fragment of tegula roofing tile was found in Ditchling cemetery (TQ33301505) in 1994⁶. The Roman road the Greensand Way⁷ also runs to the north of the site, and was located during a recent watching brief (MES7393). A short distance to the west along the Greensand Way is the Roman settlement at Hassocks, whilst to the east there are a number of Roman villa sites.
- 2.5 The nucleus of the present village was established during the Saxon period on the narrow ridge of Folkestone Beds running east/west, where the soil is light and well drained and there are abundant fresh-water springs. The name Ditchling refers to Diccel's people (oe. *Diccelingas* → aet Diccelingum c. 880 → Dicelingas 1121 → Dicheling 1230 → Dichlinge 1589).

¹ Garrett, S. 1976 'A Mesolithic Site at Lodge Hill, Ditchling', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **114**, 326.

² Garrett, S. 1976 'Mesolithic and Neolithic finds from Keymer', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **114**, 326.

³ Butler, C. 1989 'An Early Mesolithic Site and Later Flintwork from Hassocks, West Sussex' *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **127**, 230-234.

⁴ Butler, C. 2004 *An Assessment Excavation at Keymer Burial Ground, Keymer, West Sussex*, MSFAT Interim Report.

⁵ Rudling, D. 1987 'An Iron Age coin found at Ditchling' *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **125**, 238.

⁶ Rudling, D. 1994 'A Roman tile from Ditchling Cemetery' *MSFAT Newsletter* **23**.

⁷ Margary, I. 1948. *Roman Ways in the Weald*. London. Phoenix House

- 2.6** The village was owned by Aelfred the Great, whose palace is believed to have stood opposite the Church of St. Margaret, and was the administrative centre of a large Saxon royal estate⁸. The Will of King Alfred 880 A.D. bequeathed the Manor of Ditchling to his relative, Osferth. The manor reverted to the Crown to form part of the demesne land of Edward the Confessor. Following the Norman Conquest the Domesday Survey of 1086 showed that the manorial lands had been divided up, William de Warenne acquiring the demesne lands.
- 2.7** The de Warennes based themselves in Lewes, selling some of the demesne land and granting some to Lewes Priory which became the Manor of Ditchling Garden. This reverted back to the Crown on the dissolution of the monasteries. There was never a resident 'Lord of the Manor' and a great deal of demesne land was leased to tenant farmers with the result that Ditchling developed as an 'open' rather than 'closed' village⁹. The Manor of Ditchling passed through various hands to the Lords of Abergavenny who held the lands until 1939, when the estate was divided up and sold.
- 2.8** Post-Medieval industry is represented by the large quarry for the extraction of sand (TQ 33500 15000), which is situated to the south of the site. Sixteen timber framed houses have so far been identified and recorded by members of the Wealden Buildings Study Group¹⁰, with many other buildings recorded on the HER dating from the 18th century.
- 2.9** The 1st Edition OS map (1879) shows the area of the site to be a field on the north side of East End Lane, and the area continues to be open ground through all the following editions. The current bungalow on the site was constructed in the 1970's (Fig. 3).
- 2.10** Recent archaeological watching briefs have been carried out to the rear of former Sandrock Public House (EES13935) where a Medieval boundary ditch, two Post Medieval pits and three undated post holes were found¹¹, at North End Farm where all the artefacts dated to the 19th/20th century¹², and at 5 Fieldway where two very abraded possible Saxo-Norman pottery sherds were found¹³. A watching brief at 6 East Gardens (EES14188) did not reveal any archaeological features or artefacts.

⁸ Glover, J. 1975 *The Place Names of Sussex*, pps.47-8. Batsford, London.

⁹ Warne, H. Ditchling Parish Survey. unpublished.

¹⁰ Holt, M & Goodare. *Ditchling Timber Framed Buildings & Some Parish History*. Wealden Buildings Study Group.

¹¹ Archaeology South-East Report no: 1706

¹² Butler, C. 2004 *A Watching Brief at North End Farm, 3-5 East Gardens, Ditchling, East Sussex* MSFAT Report

¹³ Cudmore, D. 2006 *A Watching Brief at 5 Fieldway, Ditchling, East Sussex*, MSFAT Report

3 Archaeological Methodology

- 3.1** On arrival at the site on the 1st April, a small trench 1.5m x 0.5m and 1m deep, had already been excavated on the west side of the house for drainage purposes (Fig. 4). The section was briefly recorded, and no features or artefacts were seen.
- 3.2** The existing concrete slab steps and path from the road to the bungalow were then removed. The driveway was then excavated using a small tracked 360° excavator, which removed the soil in shallow spits using a flat-bladed bucket under archaeological supervision to create a sloping driveway (Fig. 4). No features were recorded here, but a number of artefacts were recovered.
- 3.3** The foundation trench for the porch was then excavated. The north-south trench was 4m long and 0.6m wide, and was excavated to a depth of 1.4m using the 360° tracked excavator under archaeological supervision (Fig. 4). The two shorter east-west trenches were subsequently excavated by hand. A pit feature was excavated and is described in Section 4.
- 3.4** The electricity supply trench was 400mm wide and 500mm deep, and ran between the front of the bungalow and the new porch (Fig. 4). It was excavated by hand under archaeological supervision as it was likely to extend into the area of the pit mentioned above.
- 3.5** All archaeological deposits, features and finds were excavated and recorded according to accepted professional standards using context record sheets. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell colour chart. A metal detector was used to scan the archaeological features, machined surfaces and the spoilheaps. A TBM was established at the south-east corner of the bungalow.
- 3.6** A photographic record of the work was kept as appropriate and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held by Chris Butler Archaeological Services and after any further analysis, will be offered to Ditchling Museum. A site reference of EED09 has been allocated.

4 Results

Driveway Area

- 4.1 The driveway area (Fig 4.) had a firm very dark brown to grey-black sandy loam topsoil up to 600mm deep (Context 1), which contained roots (1%), charcoal pieces and flecks (1%) and ceramic building material (<1%). Numerous Post Medieval artefacts were recovered from this layer.
- 4.2 Below Context 1 was a firm mid grey sandy loam (Context 2), which contained charcoal pieces and flecks (2%). This layer was 200-300mm deep, and became lighter in colour and more compact the further down it went, and almost merged into the underlying Context 3. This was a light grey sand, which became more compact and turned to a yellow-buff colour further down.
- 4.3 An electricity cable was encountered within Context 2 beside the path, which suggests that there has been some disturbance in this area. A layer of concrete and burning, which included a carbonised wooden plank, mixed with sand (Context 4) was found within Context 1 adjacent to the top of the steps, and may have been associated with the construction of the bungalow.
- 4.4 The section noted in the drainage trench on the west side of the bungalow (Fig. 4) showed that below a concrete path there was 200mm depth of a dark brown topsoil, then 100mm depth of sand, below which was a dark grey sandy loam to the bottom of the trench. There were no features or artefacts noted.

Porch Foundation Trench

- 4.5 In the foundation trench (Fig. 4) for the porch a thin layer of topsoil (Context 1) was encountered, and below this was a deep layer of firm sandy clay loam, which was a mid grey colour with darker patches (Context 8). This layer contained chalk pieces to 120mm (1%), irregular shaped natural flints to 100mm (1%) and charcoal pieces and flecks (<1%). This layer contained a mixture of artefacts dating from the 16th century through to the 19th century, although it was noted that the more recent artefacts tended to come from the upper part of this Context even though there was no discernable difference in the soil context (Fig. 5).
- 4.6 Context 9 was a firm light grey sandy clay loam, which contained irregular natural flint pieces to 120mm (<1%), and was situated below Context 8 and above the natural. This layer contained mid 15th to mid 16th century pottery, together with residual Medieval and intrusive 20th century pottery.

- 4.7** Cut into Context **8**, and below Context **1**, was a cut feature (Cut **5**). This feature was not seen during the mechanical excavation of the trench, although a concentration of artefacts suggested its presence. In section it was seen to be a shallow pit (Fig. 5) 2.7m wide and 250mm deep, with gradually sloping sides into a dished bottom. It extended across the width of the trench and also showed up in the west-facing section, extending outside the trench.
- 4.8** There were two fills in Cut **5**, the upper (Context **6**) being a firm dark brown sandy loam, with charcoal pieces and flecks (2%). Below this was a firm mid grey-brown sandy clay (Context **10**) loam with charcoal flecks (<1%). Early to mid 16th century pottery was recovered from the fill of this pit. Soil samples were taken from both fills to be wet sieved.
- 4.9** Between the foundation trench and the bungalow there was a concrete path 150mm thick, below which was a thin layer of made ground *c.*100mm deep (Fig. 5). Below this was a layer of a loose mid grey sandy loam 150mm thick (Context **7**) with irregular pieces of sandstone to 150mm (3%), roots (2%) and charcoal flecks (<1%). Below Context **7** was a thin horizon of yellow sand up to 50mm deep. As these layers sat above the topsoil (Context **1**) it is likely to have been laid down during the building of the bungalow or later.
- 4.10** Between the main foundation trench and the bungalow, and below the concrete path, the majority of the material encountered in the east-west foundation trenches was a very disturbed made ground (Context **7**) up to 1m deep, and included a water mains pipe into, and waste water pipe out of, the bungalow at the north end..

Electricity Supply Trench

- 4.11** The topsoil in the electricity supply trench (Context **100**) was a loose mid grey brown sandy loam with roots (5%), ceramic building material (2%), mortar pieces (2%), pieces of flint to 40mm (1%) and chalk pieces to 30mm (1%). This layer of disturbed topsoil/made ground was similar to the disturbed area of ground immediately adjacent to the bungalow.
- 4.12** At the northern end of this trench below Context **100** there was a thin horizon of yellow sand up to 50mm thick (Context **101**). This is the same layer as noted below Context **7** in Section 4.8 above. Below Context **101** was a firm mid grey-brown sandy loam (Context **102**) with pieces of chalk to 40mm (<1%) and contained a number of finds including a single sherd from a small tripod pipkin of mid/late 15th – mid 16th century date. Although it was not possible to see a cut within the trench, it is likely that Context **102** was the fill of Cut **5**.
- 4.12** There were no other features noted during the fieldwork, although further artefacts were collected from the ground surface and from the spoil heaps.

5 The Finds

5.0 The excavation produced an interesting assemblage of finds, with examples ranging from the Mesolithic period through to the 20th century; these are summarised in Tables 1 to 3 and discussed further below:

5.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.1.1 The archaeological work recovered a moderate sized assemblage of pottery which is quantified by period in Table 1. Although the size and condition of the sherds is variable the majority are of medium size (to 50mm across) with no, or only slight, signs of abrasion. This is particularly the case for the Transitional and later sherds though the medieval material is notably smaller and more abraded. As such some of the earliest material has clearly been reworked though the majority of the later pottery has suffered no or limited reworking.

Table 1 The Pottery

Context	Medieval C13th – mid 14th	Transitional Late C14th – early/mid 16th	Early Post-medieval Mid C16th – mid 18th	Late Post-medieval Mid C18th – 19th	Clay Pipe C17th – 19 th	Spot Date
Spoilheap	-	1/8g	-	2/170g	1/2g	Mixed: mid C15th – 19 th
Builder's finds	-	5/147g	-	-	-	Mixed: mid C15th – 19 th
1 Foundation trench	-	1/9g	1/19g	5/54g	1/1g	Mixed: mid C15th – 19 th
1 Hand excavation	-	1/11g	1/3g	2/4g	-	Mixed: mid C15th – 19 th
1 Drive	-	-	5/68g	24/306g	1/2g	Mixed: C16th – early 20 th
2 Drive	-	1/1g	-	-	1/2g	Mixed: C16th – 19th
6	2/26g	18/488g	-	-	-	Early/mid C16th
7	-	-	1/6g	2/189g	-	Mixed: mid C18th – 19 th
8	2/9g	21/436g	-	1/1g	-	Early/mid C16th with low intru. C19th
9	7/43g	1/15g	-	-	-	Mid C15th - early 16 th but with high resid late c13th – 14 th
9 lower	-	3/50g	-	-	-	Mid C15th – mid 16 th but with low intru C20th
100	-	2/43g	-	8/109g	-	Mixed: mid C15th – 19 th
101	-	-	-	2/26g	-	Late C19th – early/mid 20 th
102	-	1/68g	-	-	-	Mid/late C15th – mid 16th

5.1.2 The earliest pottery from the site consists of a single small body sherd in reduced fine flint tempered ware of 11th to 12th century date (residual in Context 9). The other medieval pottery from the site is all of mid 13th to mid/late 14th century date. Most came from Context 9, which could be a heavily disturbed medieval soil horizon. This deposit contained slightly abraded sherds in fine and medium sand tempered wares, including a cooking pot with flat-topped club rim and an internally glazed base sherd. Fill 6 contained two oxidised residual mid 13th to early 14th century cooking pot sherds.

- 5.1.3** The majority of the pottery from the site is of Transitional date spanning the 15th to mid 16th centuries, though the majority can be placed toward the latter part of this range. The majority of the material is in one of a number of related local hard-fired fine sand tempered earthenwares. Although the surface colours of these vessels is deliberately coloured orange/brown (oxidised) or dark grey (reduced) glaze is usually absent and decoration minimal. All decorated pieces derive from vessels with white painted lines – typical of the Black and White painted ware tradition of Sussex.
- 5.1.4** Two groups stand out. The assemblage from Pit 5, fill 6 is dominated by a number of sherds from an everted rimmed jar with deliberately reduced outer surface decorated with white painted straight and arced lines. The same deposit also contained two sherds of probable Cologne/Frechen stoneware of the first half of the 16th century and a single mid 15th to mid 16th century Spanish tin-glazed earthenware body sherd from a hollow ware with blue and turquoise external decoration.
- 5.1.5** Context 8 also contained a notable assemblage of Transitional pottery though once again this is dominated by the local hard-fired earthenwares, some with white painted decoration. Jars and at least one jug/pitcher are represented. Non-local pottery from this deposit includes a sherd of possible early green glazed Borderware and jug/mug base sherds of Cologne/Frechen and Raeren stoneware. Other frilled Raeren base sherd fragments were recovered from the spoilheap and Context 9. Context 102 produced a large unabraded base sherd, with two feet still attached, from a small tripod pipkin in local hard-fired earthenware with internal green glaze.
- 5.1.6** The majority of early post-medieval sherds from the site can be placed in a mid 16th to 17th century date range. However, it is probable most date to the middle of the 16th century and simply represent the end of the main period of occupation represented by the Transitional wares. The largest group is from the topsoil over the drive area (Context 1). This produced three sherds of local glazed red earthenware, a small jar/cup sherd in green glazed Borderware and a Frechen stoneware sherd. The only other sherd consists of a small scrap of early 18th- century Staffordshire white salt glazed stoneware from layer (Context 7).
- 5.1.7** A moderate scatter of late post-medieval pottery is present in the assemblage. A typical range of domestic wares is represented, presumably being spread on the garden with other kitchen refuse during ‘manuring’. Wares include unglazed earthenware (flower pots), glazed red earthenware (jars/bowls), English stoneware (jars and bottles), transfer-printed pearlware (cups/plates), transfer-printed refined whiteware (‘china’ cups/plates), moulded blue stoneware (Context 1) and English porcelain (cups).

5.1.8 Although small the pottery assemblage is of particular interest in demonstrating occupation on/near the site from at least the later 15th century, with at least manuring going back to the 11th/12th centuries. Very few groups of pottery have been excavated from the village to date and as such every assemblage adds significantly to our understanding of the settlement's spatial and chronological development. The current assemblage is the first significant one of 15th to mid 16th century date from the village and for the first time shows a sample of the wares in use at this time.

5.1.9 The archaeological work has recovered a small but interesting assemblage of finds. Of particular note is the assemblage of Transitional pottery as this is the first of this period from the village. The assemblage demonstrates the range of local fabrics in use as well as indicating the range of market contacts available to a presumably wealthy household in Ditchling. It is recommended that a short summary of the Transitional pottery, describing the fabric and forms present, should be produced for publication. Only one sherd, the Black and White painted jar from Context **6**, is worth illustrating. More work is recommended on the decorated floor tile in an attempt to confirm its origin. This piece should be photographed for publication.

5.2 Clay Tobacco Pipes by Luke Barber.

5.2.1 Only four fragments of clay pipe were recovered from the site. All consist of undecorated stem fragments. The earliest piece is of the first half of the 17th century (spoilheap) but the other three are of mid 18th to 19th century date (Contexts **1** and **2**).

5.3 Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

Table 2 Building Material

Context	Brick	Tile	Stone	Other
Builder's finds	-	Peg 4/280g	-	-
1 Hand excavation	1/19g	Peg 3/55g Ridge 1/16g	-	Plaster 1/8g
1 Drive	-	Peg 1/15g	-	-
2 Drive	1/8g	-	-	-
6	-	-	1/260g	Render 1/15g Burnt clay 1/9g
8	-	Peg 8/285g Floor 1/203g	1/7g	-
9	-	-	-	Burnt clay 2/2g
9 lower	-	-	-	Asbestos 1/9g
100	-	Peg 1/58g Pan 1/37g	-	Asbestos 1/29g
101	-	Peg 2/165g	-	-

- 5.3.1** A moderate quantity of brick and tile was recovered from the site (see Table 2). The earliest material consists of a few pieces of Transitional date (C15th – mid 16th), most commonly peg tile fragments. These are usually quite crudely made with diamond-shaped peg-holes and well/hard fired. Context **1** included two examples tempered with fine sand and common hard dull red grog inclusions to 5mm.
- 5.3.2** Those from Context **8** include three crudely made examples tempered with fine sand and rare flint inclusions to 1mm. The same deposit also included a medium fired fragment tempered with fine sand and probably of early post-medieval (later 16th to 17th century) date.
- 5.3.3** Of more interest is a piece of decorated glazed floor tile of late 15th to 16th century date from Context **8**. The tile has a fine buff sandy fabric with sparse iron oxides to 2mm and rare patches of unmixed off-white clay. The tile (front cover), which is 25mm thick and has a 27mm diameter circular conical profiled fixing depression on its underside, has stamped decoration under a white slip which is itself covered by a clear (yellow) glaze. The design, depicting a human head in one corner of the tile (presumably there were heads in each corner), is almost certainly of Continental origin, quite possibly from the Low Countries but no parallel has yet been found.
- 5.3.4** The remaining early ceramic building material consists of a glazed 16th to 17th century ridge tile fragment from Context **1** and fragment of 18th century fine sand tempered pan tile from Context **100**. Most pieces from the site derive from 19th to 20th century bricks and roof tiles. The latter include a number of 20th century machine moulded tiles (from Contexts **100**, **101** and ?intrusive in Context **8**).

5.4 The Flintwork by Chris Butler

- 5.4.1** A small assemblage of 16 pieces of worked flint weighing 484g was recovered during the watching brief, and is summarised in Table 4.

Table 4 Prehistoric Flintwork

Hard hammer-struck flakes	6
Soft hammer-struck flake	1
Fragments	5
Core	1
Core fragment	2
Core/hammerstone	<u>1</u>
<i>Total</i>	<i>16</i>

- 5.4.2** The flintwork is entirely debitage, with mostly hard hammer struck flakes and fragments. One flake has been soft hammer-struck, whilst one of the fragments has probably come from a blade. One of the hard hammer-struck flakes is a large primary flake with cortex, typical of later prehistoric flintworking.

5.4.3 The core is a single platform flake core, which also has evidence for platform preparation. There are two core fragments, and another core fragment which appears to have been re-used as a hammerstone.

5.4.4 This small assemblage has few pieces that can be assigned to a particular period due a lack of diagnostic traits. However there is only one piece, the flake core, that could be placed into the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods, whilst the blade fragment is also possibly Neolithic. The lack of platform preparation of most of the remaining pieces suggests that they are probably later prehistoric in date.

5.4.5 There were also 17 pieces of fire-fractured flint, weighing 596g, recovered during the watching brief. These are mostly quite large (average weight 35g) and are probably also later prehistoric in date. One other natural nodule of flint had been scorched on its surface, possibly the result of accidental fire damage.

Table 3 Other Finds

Context	Bone/shell	Flint	Others
Unstratified	6 bone (240g) 4 oyster (126g)	-	1 iron axehead (1,262g)
1 (drive)	15 bone (146g) 3 oyster (33g)	6 flintwork (30g)	2 glass (45g) 3 metal (73g)
1 (foundation)	6 bone (16g)	1 flintwork (132g) 1 fire-fractured (3g)	4 glass (41g)
6	42 bone (478g) 2 oyster (21g)	3 flintwork (240g) 5 fire-fractured (329g)	6 metal (88g)
7	-	-	4 glass (42g)
8	44 bone (1,208g) 10 oyster (245g)	4 flintwork (74g) 6 fire-fractured (182g)	3 glass (15g) 3 metal (42g)
9	16 bone (199g) 3 oyster (53g)	1 flintwork (7g) 3 fire-fractured (63g)	-
10	1 bone (1g) 1 oyster (5g)	2 fire-fractured (19g)	-
100	3 bone (36g) 3 oyster (34g)	1 flintwork (1g)	2 glass (114g) 1 metal (23g)
102	10 bone (120g)	-	-

5.5 The Animal Bone identified by Pat Stevens.

5.5.1 A total of 113 identified pieces of animal bone weighing in total 2.444kg was recovered in the watching brief. The species represented were cattle (47%), sheep (15%), pig (3%) fowl (3%), and duck, probably Mallard (2%), with a single possible Roe Deer bone. There were no complete bones present or bones suitable for measuring.

5.5.2 The bone was predominantly cattle, which made up almost half of the bone present. One unusual practice noted in the cattle bone from both Contexts **6** and **8**, was the splitting of mandibles. The mandibles appear to have been split longitudinally from front to back and below the alveoli, so in most cases the numerous loose teeth recovered could not be attributed to a particular mandible.

5.5.3 There is some evidence for butchery or gnawing on the bones, with four cattle bones being chopped, and four split, and with one sheep bone chopped and three split. Nine cattle bones, and single examples of sheep and pig have been gnawed, and one sheep bone had been burnt. The Roe Deer antler tyne is very eroded, but could be part of a brow tyne.

5.6 Marine Molluscs by Chris Butler

5.6.1 A total of 26 fragments of oyster shell weighing 517gms was collected during the watching brief. Oyster was a popular food resource during the Medieval and early Post Medieval periods, and the shells are often found in domestic contexts even at inland site such as Ditchling.

5.7 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.7.1 Only two pieces of stone were recovered from the site. These consist of a piece of Wealden calcareous sandstone from Context **8** and part of a Horsham stone roofing slab from Context **6**. The latter is a common roofing material in Sussex in the 15th and 16th century and is not unexpected here.

5.8 The Glass by Chris Butler

5.8.1 Two complete bottles and thirteen fragments of glass were recovered during the watching brief, weighing 257gms. These comprised of three fragments from clear glass bottles, nine fragments from green glass bottles and one fragment from a brown bottle. There was also a small clear glass perfume bottle (Context **1**) and a light green glass medicine or ink bottle from Context **100**. All of these glass fragments date to the 19th and early 20th centuries.

5.8.2 A small fragment of heavily patinated glass was found in the wet sieved soil sample residue from Context 6. This piece may well be contemporary with the 16th century date for this fill.

5.9 Metalwork by Chris Butler

5.9.1 A total of 14 pieces of metalwork were recovered during the watching brief, many of which came from the topsoil (see Table 3).

5.9.2 From the topsoil came a number of pieces of iron and other metal items including a desert spoon made by Mappin & Webb in 1950. This company was established in 1797, and are still active today as part of British Silverware Ltd¹⁴. An iron axehead, possibly of 19th century date, was an unstratified find.

5.9.3 A number of unidentified iron pieces were recovered including an iron ring, an iron nail (from wet sieved residue) and a fragment from an iron-bladed sickle/billhook from Context 6, whilst an iron nail was found in Context 8.

5.9.4 Non ferrous finds included a fragment of twisted copper-alloy wire from Context 6, and part of a copper-alloy tube and a piece from a handle or bracket in an alloy metal from Context 8.

5.10 Environmental Evidence

5.10.1 Two soil samples were taken from the fill of Pit 5, one of two bags from Context 6 and one of a single bag from Context 10. Each bag contained approximately 6 litres of soil. A sub-sample of 1 litre from each sample was initially processed to assess whether the samples had any potential for organic or micro-faunal remains, and subsequently the complete sample was processed.

5.10.2 The samples were processed using bucket floatation, with the residue being washed through a 1mm mesh sieve. Once the residues were dry they were sorted by eye to extract material of archaeological and environmental interest. The results are shown in Table 5.

5.10.3 Both sample residues contained quantities of modern roots, and charcoal pieces. The sample from Context 6 also produced a small number of carbonised seeds, fragments of shell and a large quantity of bone, including numerous pieces of fish bone. The sample from Context 10 produced a small quantity of bone, also including fish bone.

¹⁴ <http://www.antiquesilverspoons.co.uk/canteenmakers.htm>

Table 5: Environmental Samples

Context	Modern roots	Charcoal	Seeds	Fish Bone	Residue
6	***	***	*	***	Glass, CBM, nail & shell
10	**	***	-	**	-

Frequency Key: None - ; Very low * ; Low ** ; Moderate *** ; High ****

5.10.4 The residues have been retained in the archive, and it is recommended that further work is undertaken to identify the charcoal and possible seed, and for a full analysis of the fish and small bone to determine what species were being exploited.

6 Discussion

- 6.1** The watching brief at 3 East End Lane did not locate extensive evidence for prehistoric activity, which is surprising given the recent discoveries at 52 East End Lane and on Lodge Hill. There was also no evidence for any Roman activity.
- 6.2** A small quantity of Medieval pottery, including a sherd of 11th-12th century date, and other pottery of 13th-14th century date, hints at activity in this period, which should be of no surprise given the location of the site close to the centre of the Medieval village.
- 6.3** The most important aspect of the discoveries made is the deep deposit (Contexts **8 & 9**) containing mid 15th to mid 16th century pottery and the fragment of decorated floor tile of late 15th to 16th century date, and pit 5. The fills of Pit **5** have produced pottery of early to mid 16th century date, and an interesting assemblage of other artefacts including animal and fish bone, shell and other environmental material.
- 6.4** The assemblage of pottery demonstrates the range of local fabrics in use in the 15th to 16th centuries, as well as indicating the range of market contacts available to a presumably wealthy household in Ditchling. The environmental evidence provides a good indication as to their diet and the food resources available to them.

- 6.5** It is therefore recommended further work should be undertaken to analyse the pottery and the decorated floor tile, together with the bone assemblage and environmental evidence from Pit **5**. A short note should then be produced for publication in Sussex Archaeological Collections.

7. Acknowledgements

- 7.1** I would like to thank Mr George Baxter of George Baxter Associates who made the arrangements for the watching brief on behalf of Mrs H Barker (the owner). I would also like to thank Tom Challoner and his on-site staff for their co-operation on site during this watch brief. The project was monitored by Mr Greg Chuter for ESCC, who also provided the HER records.

- 7.2** I would also like to thank Keith Butler who carried out the second phase of the watching brief, Rachel Butler who processed the finds, Luke Barber reported on the pottery, clay pipe and building material and Pat Stevens identified the animal bone. Jane Russell prepared the section drawing for the report.

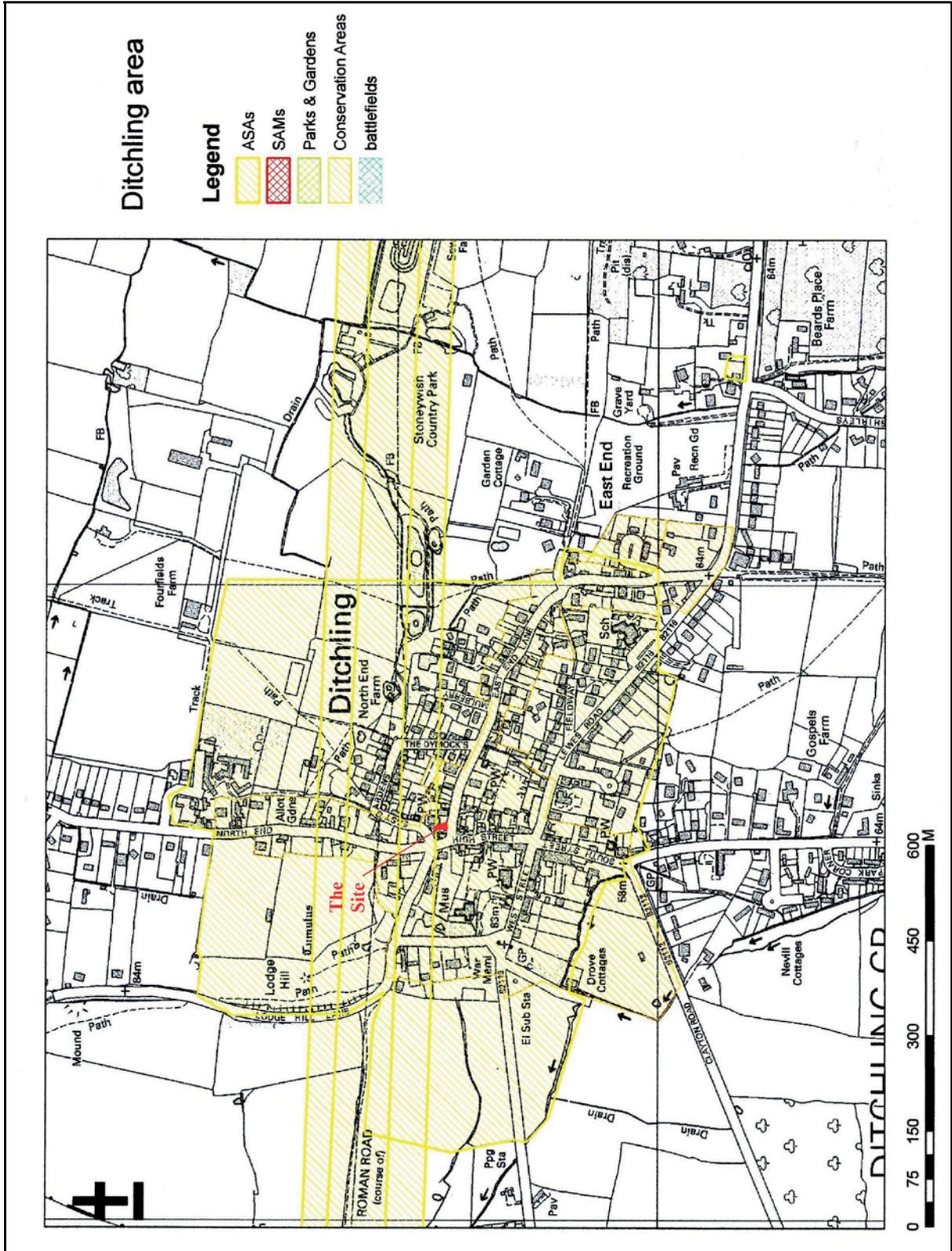


Fig. 1: 3 East End Lane, Ditchling: Location map also showing Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (Adapted from map provided by ESCC)
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Fig. 2: 3 East End Lane, Ditchling: Archaeological sites recorded on the HER
(Adapted from map provided by ESCC)
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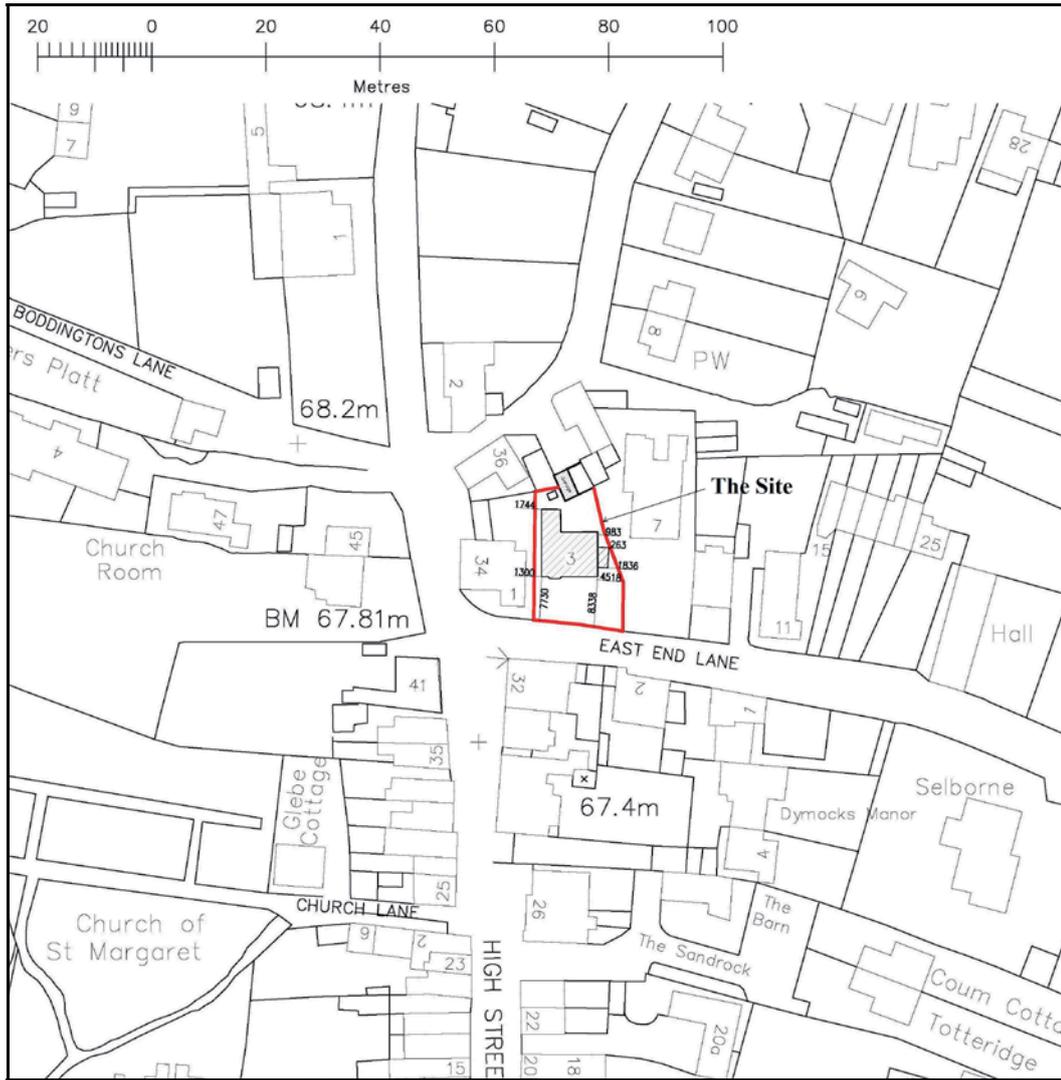


Fig. 3: 3 East End Lane, Ditchling: Site Location
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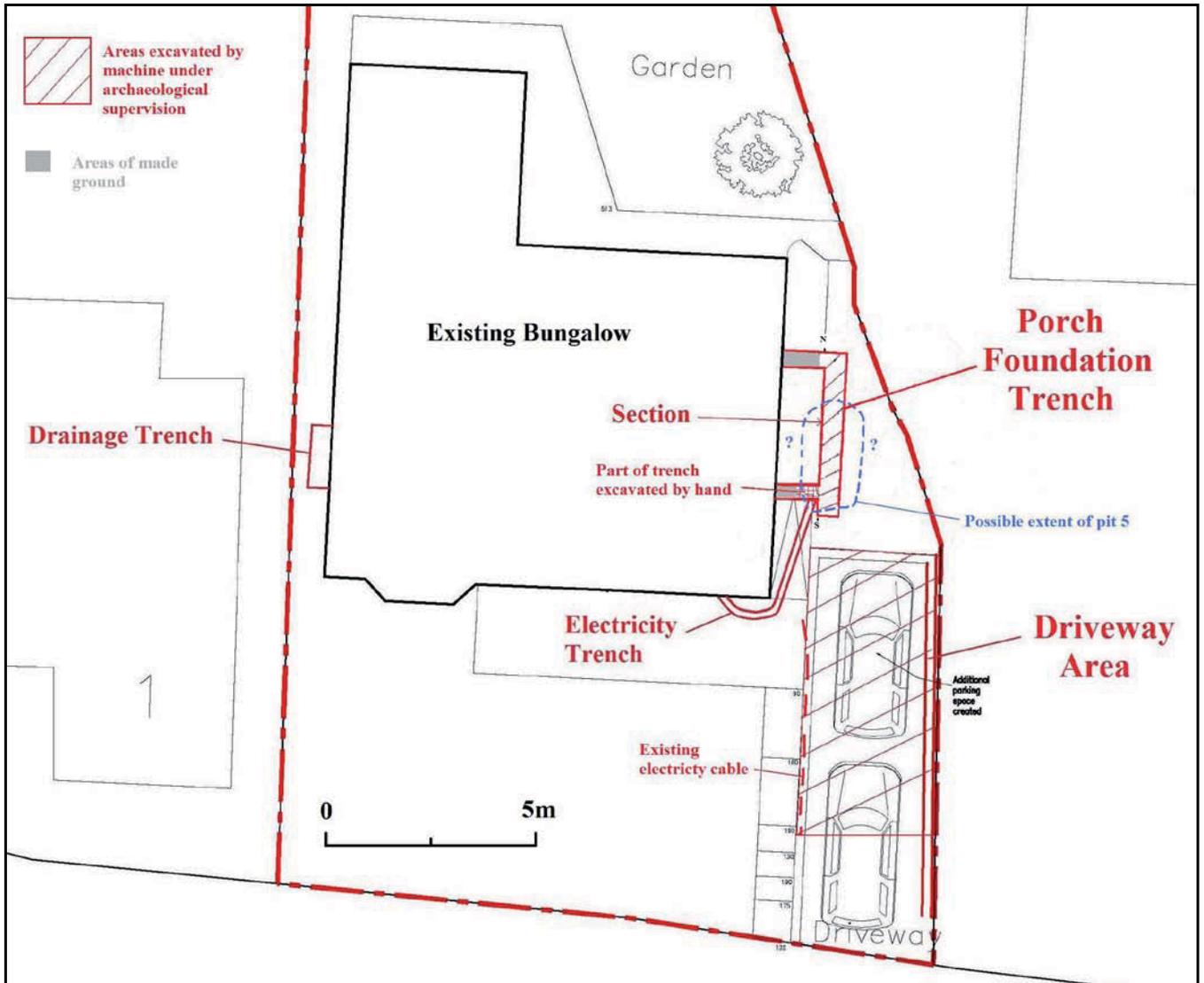


Fig. 4: 3 East End Lane, Ditchling: Site Plan showing the location of the areas being watched and other features (see text)

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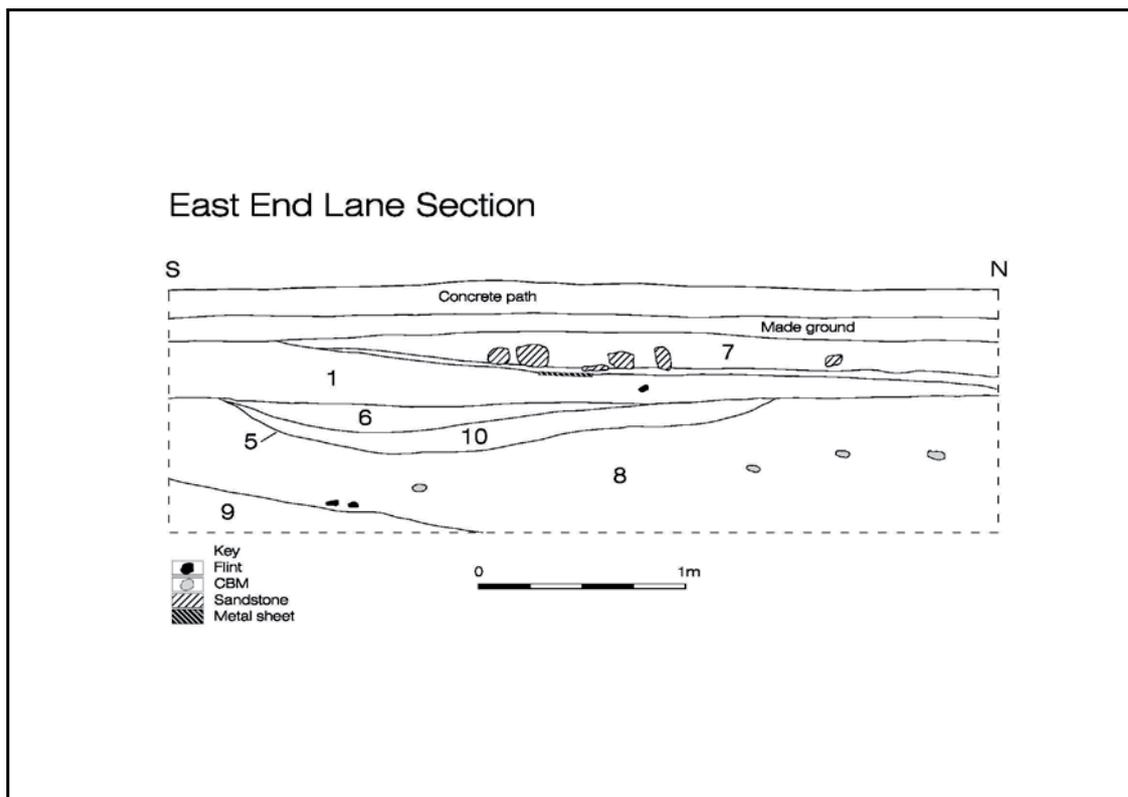


Fig. 5: 3 East End Lane, Ditchling: Section in Porch foundation trench showing Pit 5



Fig. 6: 3 East End Lane, Ditchling: Excavating the area of the driveway



Fig. 7: 3 East End Lane, Ditchling: Section in Porch
foundation trench showing Pit 5

HER Summary Form

Site Code	EED09					
Identification Name and Address	3 East End Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 32621 15328					
Geology	Folkstone Beds					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban X	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 1-4-09 to 4-6-09	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mrs H Barker					
Project Manager	Chris Butler					
Project Supervisor	Chris Butler					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso. X	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED X	PM X	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 3 East End Lane, Ditchling, during building work associated with the construction of a new porch and driveway.</i></p> <p><i>The watching brief resulted in the discovery of a shallow pit which produced pottery and other artefacts dating to the early to mid 16th century, together with an assemblage of bone and other environmental material. Prehistoric flintwork and Medieval Pottery was also recovered, together with 15th to 16th century pottery, and a piece of decorated glazed floor tile of late 15th to 16th century date.</i></p> <p><i>Of particular note is the assemblage of 15th to mid 16th century pottery as this is the first of this period from the village. The assemblage demonstrates the range of local fabrics in use as well as indicating the range of market contacts available to a presumably wealthy household in Ditchling.</i></p>						

Chris Butler Archaeological Services

Chris Butler has been an archaeologist since 1985, and formed the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in 1987, since when it has carried out numerous fieldwork projects, and was runner up in the Pitt-Rivers Award at the British Archaeological Awards in 1996. Having previously worked as a Pensions Technical Manager and Administration Director in the financial services industry, Chris formed **Chris Butler Archaeological Services** at the beginning of 2002.

Chris is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, a committee member of the Lithic Studies Society, and is a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex. He continues to run the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in his spare time.

Chris specialises in prehistoric flintwork analysis, but has directed excavations, landscape surveys and watching briefs, including the excavation of a Beaker Bowl Barrow, a Saxon cemetery and settlement, Roman pottery kilns, and a Mesolithic hunting camp. He has also recently undertaken an archaeological survey of Ashdown Forest and Broadwater Warren.

Chris Butler Archaeological Services is available for Flintwork Analysis, Project Management, Military Archaeology, Desktop Assessments, Field Evaluations, Excavation work, Watching Briefs, Field Surveys & Fieldwalking, Post Excavation Services and Report Writing.

Chris Butler MIFA Archaeological Services

Prehistoric Flintwork Specialist

Rosedale
Berwick
Polegate
East Sussex
BN26 6TB

Tel & fax: 01323 871021

e mail: chris@reltub.fsbusiness.co.uk